

REVISION OF THE TAWNY-FACED ANTWRN,
MICROBATES CINEREIVENTRIS (AVES:
PASSERIFORMES)

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Abstract.—Three new subspecies of *Microbates cinereiventris* are described and the ranges of the seven subspecies now recognized are delimited. *M. c. semitorquatus* (Lawrence) occurs on the Caribbean slope of Central America from Nicaragua southward and is first recorded here from Colombia on the Gulf of Urabá; it crosses over to the Pacific slope only in Panamá Province, Panamá. *M. c. cinereiventris* (Sclater) occurs on the Pacific slope from Darién, Panamá, to western Ecuador. *M. c. albapiculus* subsp. nov. is confined to the Cauca Valley, Colombia, and *M. c. magdalenae* Chapman is now seen to be restricted to the Magdalena Valley, Colombia. East of the Andes, *M. c. unicus* subsp. nov. is described from a single distinctive specimen from the Mámbita llanos in Cundinamarca, Colombia; *M. c. hormotus* subsp. nov. occurs from southern Colombia to Ecuador and northeastern Peru; and *M. c. peruvianus* Chapman is here restricted to eastern Peru, from Amazonas to Puno.

The revision by Parkes (1980) of the subspecies of *Microbates collaris* and his summary of the systematic position of the gnatwrens ("Sylviidae") provides adequate background for the following revision of the only other species of the genus, *Microbates cinereiventris*. This study is based largely on previously uncurated skins from Panamá and Colombia in the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution (USNM). This material necessitates the recognition of three new subspecies and the correction of numerous inaccuracies in the published distribution of the others.

Characters useful in separating populations of *M. cinereiventris* are (1) intensity of coloration of underparts and, to a lesser degree, the dorsum; (2) presence or absence of a dark postocular streak; (3) presence or absence of light colored tips to the rectrices; (4) intensity of coloration of the tawny cheek patches; and (5) relative development of the collar of black and white streaks on the throat.

Microbates cinereiventris semitorquatus (Lawrence)

Ramphocaenus semitorquatus Lawrence, 1862, Ann. Lyc. Nat. Hist. N. Y. 7:469. Lion Hill Station, Panama [Canal Zone].

M. [icrobates] c. [inereiventris] torquatus Chapman, 1915, Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. 34:642. *Lapsus, nec Microbates torquatus* Sclater and Salvin, 1873.

Characters.—Underparts dark gray, whitish suffusion in middle of belly obsolete; no postocular streak; rectrices not tipped with white; crown and dorsum nearly concolorous, dark rufescent brown.

Range.—Caribbean slope from southern Nicaragua through Costa Rica and Panamá to Gulf of Urabá, Colombia; Pacific slope in both halves of Panamá Province, Panamá.

Specimens examined (all USNM unless otherwise noted).—COSTA RICA. No further locality (2). ALAJUELA: San Carlos (1); La Bijagua (5). LIMON: Jiménez (1). CARTAGO: Pacuare (1). PANAMA. BOCAS DEL TORO: Changuena River, 725 m (1). COCLE: Head of Río Guabal, Tigre, 475 m (1); El Uracillo, Río Indio (2). COLON: Río Indio, boca del Río Indio (2); Río Indio, Chilár (3); Río Boqueron, Peluca Hydrographic Station (2); Porto Bello (2); Cerro Bruja (3). CANAL ZONE: Río Indio, near Gatun (tributary of Río Chagres, not the previously listed Río Indio) (4); Alajuela (2). PANAMA PROVINCE: Cerro Campana (5); Cerro Azul (1). SAN BLAS: Mandinga (1); Permé (4, MCZ); Armila (4); Puerto Obaldia (5, MCZ). COLOMBIA. CHOCO: Gulf of Urabá, Acandí (1).

Remarks.—This is the only subspecies in Central America except for the population of nominate *cinereiventris* in Darién, Panamá. The specimen of *semitorquatus* from Colombia (USNM 427204, collected 14 January 1950 by M. A. Carriker) is the first reported for that country. Griscom (1932:366) referred birds from Permé and Puerto Obaldia, San Blas, Panamá, to the Colombian race *magdalенаe*, obviously in the absence of comparative material, since he states that the tails were “tipped with whitish” as in that subspecies. Evidently he mistook the slightly lighter brownish edging of the tail tip, found in both *semitorquatus* and *cinereiventris*, for the distinct white spots of *magdalенаe*, a subspecies that is very different from *semitorquatus* and geographically quite far removed from it. I have examined Griscom’s specimens and they are perfectly typical of *semitorquatus*.

Microbates cinereiventris cinereiventris (Sclater)

Ramphocaenus cinereiventris Sclater, 1855, Proc. Zool. Soc. London 1855:76. “Pasto,” Colombia (Buenaventura substituted by Cory and Hellmayr, 1924).

Characters.—Like *semitorquatus* but postocular streak present; underparts lighter; dorsum somewhat lighter, more olivaceous, contrasting with the darker crown.

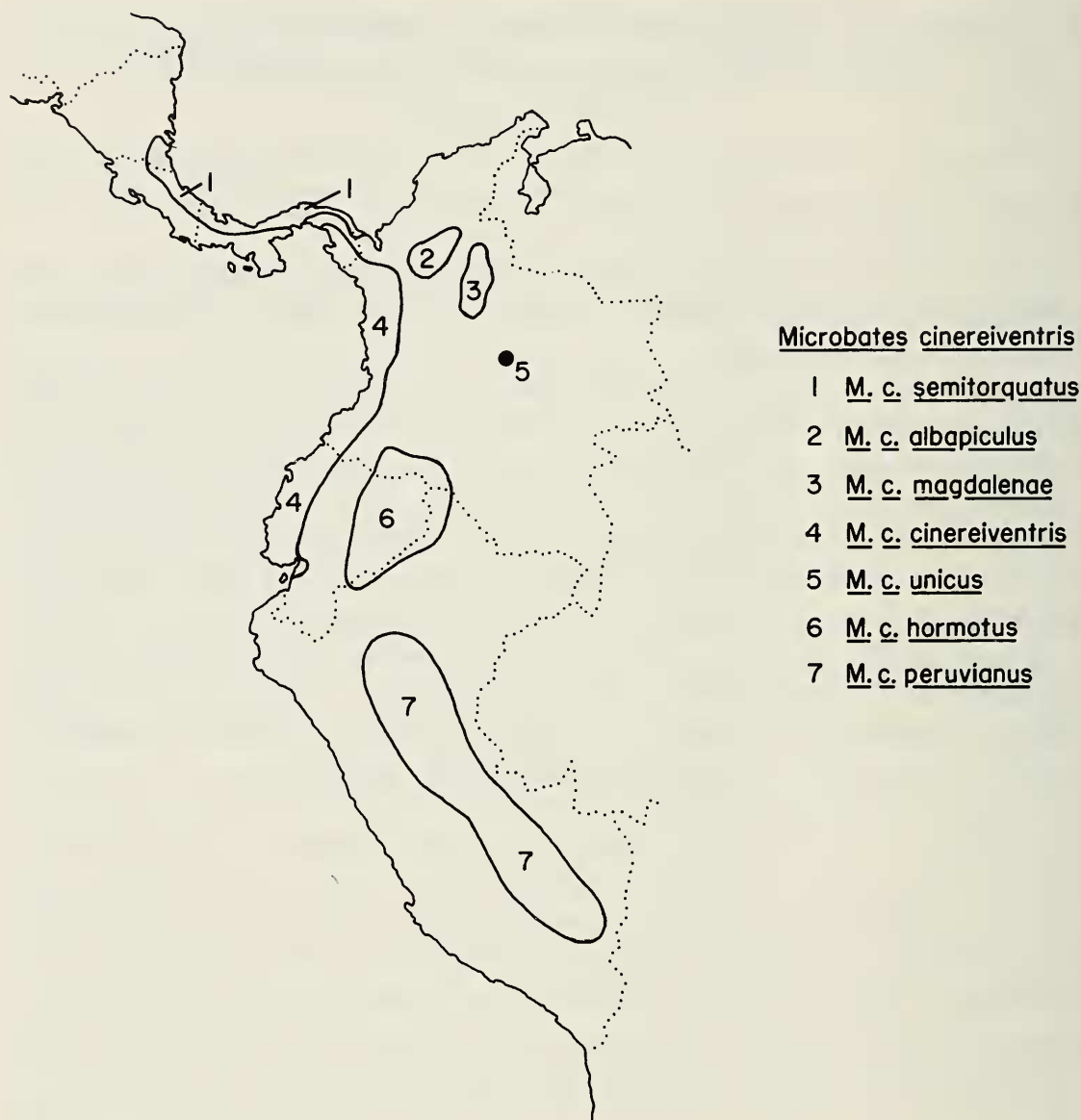


Fig. 1. Outline map of northwestern South America and adjacent Middle America showing the approximate ranges of the subspecies of *Microbates cinereiventris*. Discontinuities not the result of montane regions may be artifacts of collecting.

Range.—Pacific slope from Darién, Panamá, south through Colombia to Loja Province, western Ecuador.

Specimens examined (all USNM unless otherwise stated).—PANAMÁ. DARIÉN: La Laguna (2); Tacarcuna Village (2); Jaqué (6); Río Jaqué, mouth of Río Imamadó (6). COLOMBIA. ANTIOQUIA: Villa Artiaga, 7 km NE of Pavarandocito (2). CHOCO: Río Jurubidá, Baudó Mountains (1); Río Nuquí (3). VALLE: Punto Muchimbo, Río San Juan, below mouth of Río Calima (5). NARIÑO: La Guayacana (5, LSU). ECUADOR (all AMNH). ESMERALDAS: Esmeraldas (1); Cachabí (3); Río Verde (1). IMBABURA: Paramba (1). CHIMBORAZO (?): CHIMBO (2). MANABI: Río de Oro (2); Pata de Pájaro (1). LOJA: Alamor (1).

Remarks.—The Colombian birds tend to be lighter above than those from Panamá, but individual and perhaps age variation obliterates the differences. For example, a male from Jaqué, Darién (USNM 386417) is lighter than any of those from Colombia.

Microbates cinereiventris albapiculus, new subspecies

Holotype.—USNM 403270, male, from El Pescado, 12 km below Puerto Valdivia, Rio Cauca, Antioquia, Colombia, elevation 152 m. Collected 11 May 1948 by M. A. Carriker, Jr. (original number 13414).

Characters.—Like *M. c. magdalенаe* in having white tips to the rectrices and lacking a postocular streak, but underparts darker gray, less whitish, upperparts and brownish portions of lower flanks darker, more olivaceous, less rufescent.

Range.—Restricted to the Cauca drainage in Antioquia, Colombia, between the Serrania de Abibe on the west and the Serrania de San Lucas on the east.

Specimens examined (all USNM).—COLOMBIA. ANTIOQUIA: El Real, Río Nechí (3); Tarazá, Río Tarazá, 12 km NW of Puerto Antioquia, 136 m (1); El Pescado, 12 km below Puerto Valdivia, Río Cauca (1); Hacienda Belen, 13 km W of Segovia, 240 m (3); Quebrada Salvajin, Río Esmeralda, upper Río Sinú, 180 m (2).

Etymology.—Latin *albus*, white, and *apiculus*, masculine diminutive of *apex*, top, apex, in reference to the white tips to the rectrices.

Remarks.—This subspecies combines the plumage pattern of *magdalенаe* with the generally darker coloration of *cinereiventris*. The mountain ranges mentioned above seem to be effective in isolating this subspecies, as *cinereiventris* occurs immediately to the west of the Serrania de Abibe at Villa Arteaga, whereas a large series from the eastern slope of the Serrania de San Lucas at Volador are clearly referable to *magdalенаe*.

Microbates cinereiventris magdalенаe Chapman

Microbates cinereiventris magdalенаe Chapman, 1915, Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist. 34:642. Malena near Puerto Berrio, Magdalena Valley, Antioquia, Colombia.

Characters.—Like *albapiculus* but palest of all the races of the species, underparts whiter, lower flanks and dorsum paler brown.

Range.—Colombia, middle Magdalena Valley in Bolivar, Antioquia, and Santander.

Specimens examined.—COLOMBIA. BOLIVAR: Volador, 42 km W of Simití, 788 m (12, USNM). SANTANDER: Hacienda Santana, 13 km NE of Conchal (2, USNM); El Tambor (6, CM; 2, ANSP); El Cauca (2, CM). ANTIOQUIA: Malena (1, AMNH—holotype).

Remarks.—Despite numerous misstatements to the contrary, this subspecies is confined entirely to the Magdalena Valley.

Microbates cinereiventris unicus, new subspecies

Holotype.—USNM 372268, unsexed adult from “Mámbita Llanos east of Bogotá,” Cundinamarca, Colombia. Collected by Brother Niceforo Maria; date not specified; specimen cataloged in 1943 with a collection of specimens taken between 1930 and 1943.

Characters.—Like *magdalенаe* and *albapiculus* in having light tips to the rectrices, but these are of a deep buffy color, rather than white; lower flanks extensively deep rufescent brown; cheek patches deeper tawny; dorsum darker and much more reddish.

Range.—Known from the type locality only.

Specimen examined.—Holotype only.

Etymology.—Latin, *unicus*, only, sole, the subspecies being known so far from a single specimen.

Remarks.—The specimen label indicates that the type was originally identified by Herbert Friedmann as *magdalенаe*. It would appear that this specimen is the basis for Meyer de Schauensee’s (1951) listing *magdalенаe* from Mámbita and Paynter’s (1964) inclusion of Colombia east of the Andes in the range of that subspecies. Considering that each of the major valley systems west of the Andes is inhabited by an endemic subspecies of *Microbates*, it would be truly remarkable if the birds on the opposite side of the Andes had not differentiated. The light colored tail tip shows this subspecies to be closer to *magdalенаe* than to the birds from farther south in eastern Colombia, but the type is so different from the very pale birds in the Magdalena Valley that there can be no question of its subspecific distinction. The tail tips may be buffy in occasional specimens of *magdalенаe* but are never as rusty a buff as in the type of *unicus*.

Microbates cinereiventris hormotus, new subspecies

Holotype.—AMNH 184528, female, from San José Abajo (=San José Nuevo), Napo, Ecuador. Collected 30(?) March 1926 by Olalla and sons.

Characters.—Postocular streak and light tail tips lacking. Differs from *semitorquatus* in having the tawny cheek patches of a deeper, darker shade; black streaks in necklace reduced and not as dark; underparts and upperparts, particularly the crown, lighter. Differs from *peruvianus* in having the gray of the underparts lighter with the mid-belly decidedly whitish; cheek patches lighter; necklace streaks not as reduced; and dorsum lighter, more olivaceous, less rufescent.

Range.—East of the Andes in southern Colombia in Nariño and Putumayo, eastern Ecuador, and northeastern Peru in Loreto.

Specimens examined.—COLOMBIA. NARIÑO: Churo Yacu (1, ANSP). ECUADOR. NAPO: San José Nuevo (2, AMNH—holotype); Río Suno above Avila (1, AMNH); Loreto (1, ANSP). PASTAZA: Sarayacu (1, USNM); Montalvo (1, ANSP). PERU. LORETO: Mouth of Río Cururay (2, AMNH).

Etymology.—Greek, *hormos*, a necklace, in reference to the collar of streaks characteristic of the species as a whole.

Remarks.—Hellmayr (1911) noted that the birds of eastern Ecuador differed from *cinereiventris*, west of the Andes, in the lack of a postocular streak, the darker cheeks, and allegedly darker upperparts (actually somewhat lighter). Chapman (1923) overlooked this in his description of *peruvianus*. Although he did not examine specimens from eastern Ecuador, he considered that those reported from there previously by Sclater (1890) would probably be referable to *peruvianus* and this treatment has been followed subsequently. It has probably been for lack of an adequate series of true *peruvianus* that the Ecuadorean birds were never separated, this lack being now remedied by the series from LSU listed below. Records of *peruvianus* from Nariño and Putumayo, Columbia (Meyer de Schauensee, 1964) may be based on the specimen of *hormotus* from Churo Yacu, near the border of those departments.

Microbates cinereiventris peruvianus Chapman

Microbates cinereiventris peruvianus Chapman, 1923, Amer. Mus. Novit. 86:5. La Pampa, northern Puno, Peru.

Characters.—Nearest *hormotus* but breast and belly of a more nearly uniform and darker grey; cheek patches darker, more chestnut; upperparts darker, more rufescent; collar streaks more reduced than in other subspecies.

Range.—East of the Andes in Peru from Amazonas south to Puno.

Specimens examined.—PERU. AMAZONAS: Rio Cenepa, vicinity of Aintani (1, LSU); upper Rio Cenepa, Shaim (2, LSU). HUANACO: 35 km NE Tingo Maria, Hacienda Santa Elena, ca 1,000 m (4, LSU). CUZCO: 40 km E Quincemil on Puerto Maldonado road (1, LSU). PUNO: La Pampa (2, AMNH-holotype).

Remarks.—The reduction of the collar streaks has not been noted before but is quite characteristic of this subspecies and to a somewhat lesser extent of *hormotus* as well. The deeper tawny cheeks seem to be a feature of all the birds east of the Andes and this is expressed most strongly in *peruvianus*.

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